

Vector Surveillance and Control  
Ad Hoc Meeting  
March 13, 2003  
MINUTES

**Invitees:** Joe Baruba, City of Carlsbad; Peter Weiss, City of Oceanside; John Culea, District 5; Mike Emerson, City of Del Mar; Ed Heidig, EHAB; Susan Oliver, City of Escondido; Charley Wolk, Farm Bureau; Marjie Cappiella; Lemon Grove; Hector Miranda; City of National City; Jennifer Johnson, City of Poway; Andre Macedo, City of San Diego; Lois Naval, Louise Mabolet, City of San Marcos; Martha Hollis (Chair), City of Santee; David Kirkwood, City of Solana Beach; Dave Wilson, City of Vista; Kim McKee, California Department of Fish & Game; Monica DeAngelis, U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife; and the following staff from County Department of Environmental Health Vector Control & Surveillance Division – Dan Reid, Chris Wickham, Jim Lang, Patty Cawthon, Chris Conlan, Steve Rivera and Mary Duggan.

**Annual Report for Calendar Year 2002:**

After a call to order by committee chair Martha Hollis, Dan Reid, Chief of the Community Health Division, gave an overview of the Vector Surveillance and Control Division Annual Report noting the following highlights:

- 4,000 customer service calls/complaints in 2002
- 800 mosquito calls for service
- 250 calls for fly control (mostly poultry ranches)
- Expect West Nile Virus outbreak in San Diego this summer
- 217 rodents tested for hantavirus – 3 sero-positive
- 437 ticks tested for tularemia – 14 positive
- 11 plague-positive squirrels

Dan also reported a 25% return on customer surveys in 2002 with an overall Excellent rating (416 excellent responses out of 484 total surveys received).

Other important points included:

- A \$425,621 shortfall in program revenues last year
- 5% cost reduction or cost containment goal for each program
- Program enhancements (i.e. reviewing exemptions for certain parcels, applying fees for service for review/approval of BMPs, and developing annual permit structure for fly inspection at poultry farms)
- “Outcome based performance measures” which provide a production standard for evaluating program performance

**Round Table Introductions and Annual Report Acceptance:**

Chair Martha Hollis suggested a round table introduction of attendees followed by a motion to accept the 2002 Annual Report. Motion was moved by Joe Garuba and seconded by Steve Clark. The committee members voted unanimously to accept the annual report.

**Correction to Annual Report, Page 10, First Paragraph:**

Charley Wolk, Farm Bureau, reminded DEH staff that over the course of 8-9 years DEH Vector Surveillance and Control fees have been raised. Dan agreed and recommended the following correction to the report:

“The VSC program fees have been variable since inception in 1989.”

**West Nile Virus Strategic Response Plan:**

Dan Reid prefaced his strategic plan presentation by saying the West Nile Virus is the biggest threat facing the County’s Surveillance and Control Division. The five main components of the plan include:

- Public Education (*media campaign, website, news releases, brochures, posters, etc.*)
- Surveillance & Control (*monitoring, trapping, testing of mosquitoes, collection and testing dead birds, bi-weekly bleeding of sentinel chickens, increase reporting options and training field staff*)
- Mosquito Control (*mosquito larva-eating fish, reduce vegetation along creek beds and lakes, apply growth regulators, pesticides*)
- Response Levels (*levels 1-3 with corresponding action*)
- Remediation (*seek voluntary compliance from residents, notify agencies, take appropriate remediation steps and perform abatement and enforcement activities*)

**Property Owner Letter**

Chris Wickham explained that the long-term answer to the WNV is controlling the mosquito population. He circulated copies of a draft letter to be distributed to owners of 130 parcels identified as possible mosquito-breeding sites.

**Collaborative Media Event**

Discussed plans to conduct a collaborative media event in mid-April possibly at Buena Vista Lagoon with cities of Oceanside and Carlsbad.

- Limited pro-active aerial application of larvicide
- Helicopter application is more precise than fixed wing so the impact on bird nesting locations may be minimal.

**Grant Funding**

The Centers for Disease Control provides funds in the amount of \$10,000 for the development of a response plan and an additional \$100,000 for response activities. A California state grant is also available although most of the funds are directed to areas of the state that are already reporting confirmed cases of the disease.

**Close of Meeting**

Chair Martha Hollis called for a motion to close the March 13 meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee. Ed Heidig made the motion and Joe Garuba seconded it. Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.